

**Washington**, **DC** -Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) today applauded the students who have received fully qualified appointments to the Unites States Service Academy.

"I am so proud of these intelligent and talented young people. They are the future leaders of our nation and will receive valuable training during their service appointments," McCollum said.

Congresswoman McCollum recently hosted a special evening to announce and recognize the appointees, who hail from various communities within the Fourth Congressional District. Among these high achievers are Eric Dahlin of Mounds View High School who received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy; Stephen Reid Holand of Mounds View High School who received an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy; Luke Hutchison of Mounds View High School who received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point; Aaron Jacobson of Irondale High School who received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point; Andrew J. Pierce of Mounds View High School who received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point; Alison Reed of White Bear Lake High School's South Campus who received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy; Joshua Sprang of Irondale High School who received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy; Emily Tholen of Mounds View High School who received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy; Michael Thury of South St. Paul High School who received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point; Carlos of Cretin-Derham Hall who received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, and; R.J. Speidel, a 2008 graduate of Cretin-Derham Hall, who received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West. Point.